c. MAY ? 1998

WEEKLY UPDATE:

WITH LYDIA LINKER #7

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Here we are at the end of another Spring semester (didn't that go by fast?) and I as well as most all of you can't wait to be done with all these deadline stresses. Being pressed for time, I thought it would be nice to leave with a small retrospective and a glimpse into the future.

In the last 7 weeks or so (sometime shortly after Spring Break), we have watched the "Philistine" evolve. From the "Philis" to the "Phil" to the "Phi" to the "Ph" to the "P" (word up, yo), we have eased into this dramatic change together and now we are left with a "Weekly Update" of the thoughts and sentiments hanging around the campus. Some great things have happened by just raising awareness. This week Steve Morange announced via memo to the Registrar, Cashier, and Financial Aid that the "Summer tuition rate for Summer1998 BFA Graduating Students...will be $725 rather than the 1998-99 tuition rate of $767 per unit." I've gotten great feedback from students, staff, faculty, and executives concerning the "Weekly Update." Some annoying things happen and all we can do is watch. Banana Republic did a photo shoot here taking up time and space in our final week of school and all because Banana has Board connections. Maybe this is a symptom of the Board of Trustees not knowing enough of what goes on at the school they trust. But underneath it all, something very strange happened this semester.

About four years of intensive change seems to be coming to a head this summer. Two major positions have opened up in a seemingly sneaky way. The gallery director, Jeanie Wiffenbach, has been "asked to leave." The position has been altered to include more responsibilities like slide registry (formerly a Student Services responsibility) and lecture series (formerly the L&S Program Director's responsibility, but we'll get into that position in a moment) to name a couple. Jeanie was not offered this new position. The Student Union has requested to be on the hiring committee, and this request has been granted, however, the hiring will be done in the summer. While most students are away, these decisions will be made. Another position opening up is the Associate Dean position. This position will encompass the positions of Undergraduate Program Director and L&S Program Director (that's Reagan Louie and Bill Berkson). The new Associate Dean will also be hired during the summer, but oddly enough, the Faculty Senate was not advised of this position's advertisement before it was publicly announced. Does this mean that an SFAI insider is not wanted, qualified, or acceptable for this position? What happened in the past that would cause a position like this with so much responsibility and so much of an area to cover to fall on one person's shoulders? Department Chairs would alleviate the stress that has befallen Department Managers and that will befall this new Associate Dean. But Department Chairs contradict the "Interdisciplinary Philosophy." First of all, someone is going to have to tell me what that "Interdisciplinary Philosophy" is. Furthermore, I think Department Chairs would facilitate the ability of the students to move throughout the different departments of the school. Until there are no departments and the school is truly interdisciplinary, only then would one Associate Dean be efficient.

I don't know, it all sounds so dictatorial to me. Don't get me wrong, I love the faculty here, but it seems that they're tired. Tired of being infantilized, creating an overall resistance to wanting to deal with those being condescending and more often than not this exhaustion is brought into the classes. The stagnation and lack of motivation that the students start feeling in this situation is not solely the fault of the faculty. If the Faculty Retirement Plan was anywhere near what it should be, then faculty would feel good about retiring leaving room for incoming faculty who could look forward to a descent retirement. And if all this businessy stuff were taken care of, then maybe the faculty could re-focus on art the way they should have been allowed to all along. But these days it seems the average age of students is getting younger which causes faculty to rethink their teaching method.

And what of the newer younger student? Why does there seem to be this drive for the fresh-out-of-high school student when the Art Institute has always geared its curriculum and intention toward the student with at least 2 years of life experience. I guess the parents' tuition checks are clearing more often than the new alum's loan payments.

I think that all these issues: younger incoming students, unacceptable faculty retirement plan, rejection of Department Chairs for one Associate Dean, and the creation of a Gallery Director position that calls for an incredible amount of responsibilities (but not Jeanie), become intertwined and have all contributed to the odd frustration that has been felt all semester. With all this in mind, I know I'll be keeping vigilant this summer and for those of you who won't be around, I'll report back to you in the Fall. Well, folks, that's the news and I...am...OUTTA HERE!

~Lydia Linker~

LeE's Math

Ok I'm going to try to make this quick, though I am quite sure that there is no way to keep it from being painful. A few issues back there was an article titled Jef's math. This article concluded that in 74 days of a semester a single class cost $31.00 for 3 hours of class. Oh, how I wish that this were true. The fact is that a full time student is paying $18,400 for classes next year, and was paying in the neighborhood of $17,400 this past year. Now let us begin doing some calculations.

Given a semester beginning next September 8th and ending next December 18th we get a 15 week semester. We could break that up into days, but who has classes all day every day. Even if you wanted such a thing it would be hard to make it happen (and costly). A full time undergraduate student spends approximately 24 hours in class per week, and the average graduate student spends anywhere from 12 to 18 hours a week in class. This breaks down to four 6 hour a week classes for undergrads and four 3 hour a week classes for grads (grads sometimes take undergraduate classes as electives, thus the variable hours). If you consider that graduate students are required to take a tutorial each semester the total hours spent with the professor decreases significantly, but in fairness to the administration, we won't do that.

If we then multiply the total hours spent in classes per week by the number of weeks in the semester we get the following:

for undergrads - 24x15= 360 hours
for grads - 18x15= 270 hours (note the generous use of 18 hours not 12)

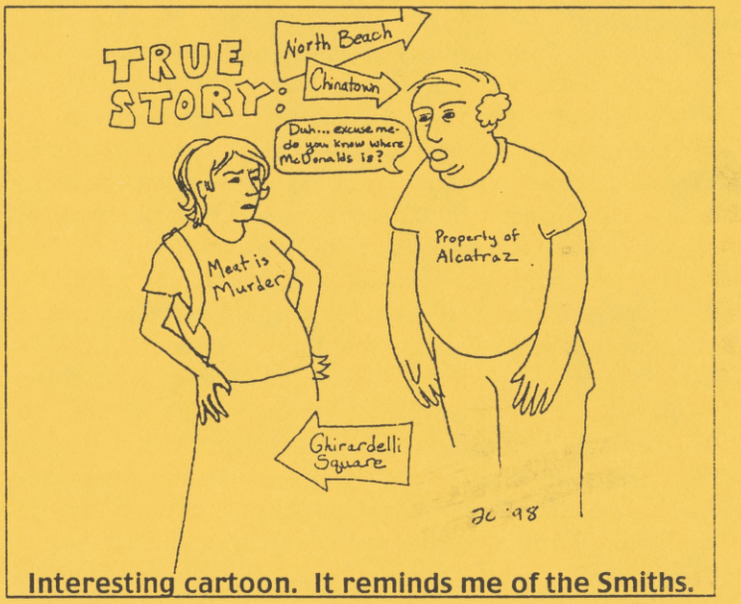
Now we divide the total tuition paid by the total number of hours in class:

for undergrads- $18,400/360 = $51/hour per class
for grads - $18,400/270 = $68/hour per class

Jef's math came up with a total of $31 for three hours of class. My figures show for next year a total of $153 for undergrads and minimally $204 for graduates. If we use the same formulas using this year's tuition instead of this summer's increased tuition, the cost is slightly less. $144 for undergrads, and $192 for grads. Again these figures are for three hours of class, most undergrad classes are 6 hour classes. Sorry Jef.

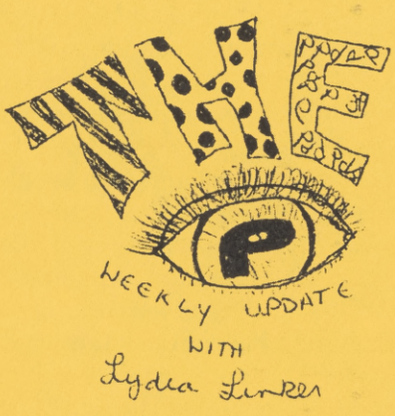
cartoons!

You can find this on Vajra Granelli's office wall. That's Granelli's boxing gym 1193 Folsom St (@ 8th).



Interesting cartoon. It reminds me of the Smiths.

Isn't that sweet? A logo for me. Thanks for the work, however, I'd like to remind every one that submissions should be Quark ready, or ret-to-go with minimal adjustments. 10-Q.



IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN TAKING THIS OVER, OR YOU'D LIKE TO HELP ME OUT NEXT SEMESTER, SEE ME!